

## Claims:

1. A free-call certificate service system comprising a free-call certificate management server including:
  - 5 a free-call certificate management database for storing information regarding sales of free-call certificates sold to one or more affiliated stores, said free-call certificate sale information containing sub-total free-call times allocated respectively to the affiliated stores, within the range of a total free-call time allocated from at least one communication company;
  - 10 a free-call request information receiver for receiving free-call request information containing a telephone number of a customer acquiring a specific one of the free-call certificates and affiliated store identification information from a specific one of one or more affiliated store terminals held respectively by said affiliated stores;
  - 15 an authentication processor for searching the sale information stored in said free-call certificate management database for sale information corresponding to said affiliated store identification information to determine whether the corresponding sale information is present in the stored sale information, and performing an authentication process based on the determination result; and
  - 20 a free-call request information transmitter for

transmitting said free-call request information authenticated by said authentication processor to a communication company server managed by said communication company so that the communication company server can deduct the amount of money corresponding to an individual free-call time allocated to said specific free-call certificate acquired by said customer from communication fees to be charged to said customer's telephone number contained in said free-call request information.

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2. The free-call certificate service system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said free-call certificate management server further includes:

15 a free-call certificate purchase request information transmitter for transmitting free-call certificate purchase request information containing said total free-call time to said communication company server; and

20 a free-call time allocation information receiver for receiving, from said communication company server, free-call time allocation information corresponding to said total free-call time contained in said free-call certificate purchase request information.

25 3. The free-call certificate service system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said free-call certificate

management server further includes:

a free-call certificate purchase request information receiver for receiving free-call certificate purchase request information containing each of said sub-total free-call times  
5 from each of said affiliated store terminals; and

a free-call time allocation information transmitter for transmitting free-call time allocation information corresponding respectively to said sub-total free-call times contained in said free-call certificate purchase request  
10 information received by said free-call certificate purchase request information receiver respectively to said affiliated store terminals.

4. The free-call certificate service system as set  
15 forth in claim 3, wherein said free-call certificate management server further includes a settlement requestor for transmitting settlement request information to at least one financial company server to request it to settle said affiliated stores' accounts for prices for purchases of said  
20 free-call certificates, respectively, and then receiving results of settlement from said financial company server.

5. The free-call certificate service system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said free-call certificate  
25 management server further includes:

a refund request information receiver for receiving  
refund request information containing a returned amount of a  
corresponding one of said sub-total free-call times and said  
affiliated store identification information from said specific  
5 affiliated store terminal; and

a refund processor for, if said authentication processor  
searches the sale information stored in said free-call  
certificate management database for the sale information  
corresponding to said affiliated store identification  
10 information to determine whether the corresponding sale  
information is present in the stored sale information, and  
authenticates a specific one of said affiliated stores holding  
said specific affiliated store terminal as a result of the  
determination, requesting said financial company server  
15 through said settlement requestor to pay said specific  
affiliated store a refund corresponding to the returned free-  
call time amount contained in said refund request information  
received by said refund request information receiver, and  
updating said free-call certificate management database on the  
basis of said refund request information.  
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6. The free-call certificate service system as set  
forth in any one of claims 1 to 5, further comprising said  
communication company server adapted for allocating said total  
25 free-call time to said free-call certificate management server

and, in response to said free-call request information from said free-call certificate management server, deducting the amount of money corresponding to said individual free-call time allocated to said specific free-call certificate acquired 5 by said customer from the communication fees to be charged to said customer's telephone number contained in said free-call request information.

7. The free-call certificate service system as set forth in claim 6, further comprising said one or more affiliated store terminals, each adapted for transmitting free-call request information containing a customer's telephone number and affiliated store identification information for authentication to said free-call certificate 15 management server.

8. The free-call certificate service system as set forth in claim 7, wherein each of said affiliated store terminals is further adapted to transmit said free-call certificate purchase request information containing . a corresponding one of said sub-total free-call times to said free-call certificate management server and receive said free-call time allocation information corresponding to the corresponding sub-total free-call time contained in said free-call certificate purchase request information from the free- 25 call certificate purchase request information from the free-

call certificate management server.

9. The free-call certificate service system as set forth in claim 7 or 8, further comprising said at least one financial company server adapted for processing the settlement information associated with said free-call certificate purchase request from each of said affiliated store terminals.

10. The free-call certificate service system as set forth in claim 9, further comprising at least one customer terminal for receiving guide information about a free-call service from said free-call certificate management server and performing a telephone call using a free-call certificate issued to a corresponding customer.

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11. The free-call certificate service system as set forth in claim 10, wherein said customer terminal is a wireless communication terminal, said wireless communication terminal being any one of a mobile telephone or personal digital assistant (PDA).

12. The free-call certificate service system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said free-call certificate management server is adapted to transmit said guide information about said free-call service to said wireless

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communication terminal in the form of a short message service (SMS) message.

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